

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. Claims 1-9 are allowed over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests the claimed memory system that is configured with a plurality of memory controller disposed in parallel on a clocked bus, and that memory chips are associated with respective memory controllers, wherein the controllers communicates with the host via the bus by means of operational memory commands using logical sector numbers; and when the host request a memory operation, the memory controller affected with respect to a range of logical memory sector numbers takes over the bus for the communication with the host by means of arbitration, as recited in the independent claim 1.

b. Claims 10-13 are allowed over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests the claimed method for determining a sequence of memory controller in a memory system with a plurality of memory controllers which is operated by a host system over a bus which include an arbitration line, wherein the method comprising the three specific steps as recited in the independent claim 10, lines 5-13.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hiep T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4197. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM-3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2187

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/Hiep T Nguyen/**

**Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2187**